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			First Named Inventor		Soo Jo LEE, et al.
			Art Unit		3749
			Examiner Name		Stephen M. GRAVINI
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Fee Transi	mittal Form	Drawing(s)			After Allowance Communication to Group
Fee Attached		Licensing-related Papers			Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
Amendment/Reply		Petition		D	Appeal Brief (\$500)
After Final		Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application			Proprietary Information
Affidavits/declaration(s)		Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address			Status Letter
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Information Disclosure Statement		CD, Number of CD(s)			
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Individual name					
Signature Eur J Mws/40,106					
Date	September 21, 2006				



Docket No. 9988.038.00 (PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

LEE, Soon Jo et al.

Customer No. 30827

Application No. 10/629,775

Confirmation No. 7792

Filed: July 30, 2003

Art Unit: 3749

For: TOP COVER ASSEMBLY FOR LAUNDRY

DRYER

Examiner: Stephen M. Gravini

MS Appeal Brief – Patents Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APPELLANTS' APPEAL BRIEF

Sir:

In response to a Final Rejection of all pending claims that was mailed on September 20, 2005 and an Advisory Action that was mailed on March 21, 2006, and in support of a "Notice of Appeal" filed July 21, 2006, Appellants hereby submit this Appeal Brief.

The fees required under § 1.17(f) and any required petition for extension of time for filing this brief and fees therefore are dealt with in the accompanying TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF.

This brief contains items under the following headings as required by 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c):

I. Real Party In Interest

II. Related Appeals and Interferences

09/22/2006 JADDO1 00000020 10629775

III. Status of Claims

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IV. Status of Amendments

V. Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

Application No. 10/629,775 Appeal Brief

VI. Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

VII. Argument

Claims Appendix

Evidence Appendix

Related Proceedings Appendix

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest for this appeal is: LG Electronics Inc.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no other appeals or interferences that will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Total Number of Claims in the Application

There are 24 claims pending in the application.

Current Status of Claims

Claims canceled: 1 and 21.

Claims withdrawn from consideration but not canceled: None.

Claims pending: 2-20 and 22-26.

Claims allowed: None.

Claims rejected: 2-20 and 22-26.

Claims on Appeal: The claims on appeal are claims 2-20 and 22-26.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

The Examiner issued a Final Rejection on March 21, 2006 and an Advisory Action on June 27, 2006. The Advisory Action does not address any of the arguments filed in Appellants' Request for Reconsideration. No amendment has been filed in response to this Final Rejection or Advisory Action. Accordingly, the claims enclosed herein in the Claims Appendix reflect the current status of claims 2-20 and 22-26.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The claimed subject matter of independent claims 26 and 15 are directed to a laundry dryer top cover assembly, including a top cover, a fire plate, and a cabinet holder. (See page 7, paragraph [0040]; Fig. 3). The top cover is mounted on a side plate of a cabinet. (See Figs. 2-3). A fire plate is disposed between the side plate and the top cover for preventing fire from spreading outside the laundry dryer. The fire plate has a flange and a plurality of fastening holes. (See paragraphs [0041] to [0047]; Figs. 3 and 5). A cabinet holder is configured to join the fire plate to the side plate. The cabinet holder includes a plurality of fastening pieces configured for insertion into the fire plate and the side plate. (See at least paragraph [0043]; Figs. 3-5).

A laundry dryer top cover assembly may also include a side plate, a front plate, a door, and a control panel. The laundry dryer includes a side plate, a front plate, and a door. (See at least paragraphs [0036]-[0037].)

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

(A) Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,550,700, issued to C. J. Holub (hereinafter "Holub").

- (B) Claims 5-8 and 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,402,281, issued to A. W. Vonderhaar (hereinafter "Vonderhaar") in view of Holub.
- (C) Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vonderhaar in view of Holub and U.S. Patent No. 1,993,201, issued to W. H. Yandell (hereinafter "Yandell").
- (D) Claims 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vonderhaar in view of Holub and Yandell.
- (E) Claims 2-20 and 22-26 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-6 of copending application No. 10/663,997.

VII. ARGUMENT

(A) The Examiner improperly rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,550,700, issued to C. J. Holub (hereinafter "Holub").

The rejection of claim 2 is respectfully traversed. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claim 2 is allowable over Holub for at least depending upon claim 26, which recites a combination of features including, for example, "a cabinet holder configured to fasten the fire plate to the side plate wherein the cabinet holder includes a plurality of fastening pieces configured for insertion into the fire plate and the side plate." Holub fails to disclose or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention.

In setting forth the rejection, the Examiner identifies the corner posts 4 in Holub as being the claimed cabinet holder. [See page 2 of the Office Action.] However, the corner posts 4, as disclosed by Holub, do not include a plurality of fastening pieces configured for insertion into the fire plate and the side plate.

Appellants further disagree with the Examiner's assertion that the hinges, as disclosed by Holub, are the claimed "fastening pieces." More specifically, Appellants submit that the hinges

are not configured for insertion into a fire plate and a side plate, as necessitated by the claim language. In contrast, Holub merely discloses doors 19, which are hingedly fixed to the corner posts 4. See Holub at Figure 1 and page 2, lines 128-130. Moreover, in Holub, the hinges are clearly not configured for insertion into end wall 2, as interpreted by the Examiner, or any side wall for that matter, because the hinges, as disclosed by Holub, are positioned only on a front side of the laundry drier. That is, the Examiner's identification of corner posts 4 as being the claimed "cabinet holder" is improper at least since Holub provides no indication that the hinges of corner posts 4 are "configured for insertion into the fire plate and the side plate," as recited.

(B) The Examiner improperly rejected claims 5-18 and 22-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,402,281, issued to A. W. Vonderhaar (hereinafter "Vonderhaar") in view of Holub.

The rejection of claim 26 is respectfully traversed. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claim 26 is allowable over the applied references for reciting a combination of features including, for example, "a cabinet holder configured to fasten the fire plate to the side plate wherein the cabinet holder includes a plurality of fastening pieces configured for insertion into the fire plate and the side plate." Vonderhaar and Holub, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention.

In setting forth the rejection, the Examiner asserts that the dimpled sections 136 are the claimed cabinet holder. However, the dimpled sections 136, as disclosed by Vanderhaar, fail to anticipate or render obvious a cabinet holder, as recited in claim 26, at least since the dimpled sections 136 are not configured for insertion into side panel 11, which was asserted to be the claimed "side plate." More specifically, Vanderhaar discloses that flange 56 is dimpled 136 for supporting the flange 135, which is provided with a plurality of openings adapted to be aligned with the openings in the dimpled sections 136 for mounting the support member. See Vanderhaar at column 6, lines 51-65. However, Vanderhaar does not provide any disclosure indicating that the dimpled sections are capable of joining support member 134, which is alleged to be claimed fire plate, to the side panel 11, which is alleged to be the claimed side plate.

Moreover, a close inspection of Vanderhaar reveals that the dimpled sections 136 are positioned such that they are incapable of joining panel support member 134 with side panel 11. That is, in Vanderhaar, the dimpled sections 136 are not positioned to mate with any portion of side panel 11. See Vanderhaar at Figure 5. Accordingly, Vanderhaar fails to disclose, inter alia, a cabinet

holder that includes a plurality of fastening pieces configured for insertion into the fire plate and the side plate, as recited in at least claim 26.

Based on an alternative interpretation of Vanderhaar, the Examiner identifies burner box 77 of Vanderhaar as being the claimed fire plate and main section 82 of Vanderhaar as being the claimed cabinet holder. The alternative rejection is also deficient and improper at least since Vanderhaar does not disclose a plurality of fastening pieces configured for insertion into the burner box 77 and side panel 11. Although Vanderhaar discloses main sections 82 of side panels 11 as having slots 85 that receive pins or studs 86, Vanderhaar clearly illustrates that these same pins or studs 86 are not configured for insertion into burner box 77, which is alleged to be the claimed fire plate. That is, Vanderhaar fails to anticipate or render obvious a "plurality of fastening pieces configured for insertion into the fire plate and the side plate."

Moreover, Holub fails to cure the deficiencies of Vanderhaar. The Examiner only relies upon Holub for disclosing "a laundry dyer application in the field of fire prevention," as stated on page 5 of the Office Action. Nevertheless, Appellants submit that Holub also fails to disclose or suggest, inter alia, "a cabinet holder configured to fasten the fire plate to the side plate wherein the cabinet holder includes a plurality of fastening pieces configured for insertion into the fire plate and the side plate."

Appellants further submit that the corner posts 4, as disclosed by Holub, do not include a plurality of fastening pieces configured for insertion into the fire plate and the side plate. Even the hinges, as disclosed by Holub, are not configured for insertion into a fire plate and a side plate, as recited. Rather, Holub discloses that the doors 19 are hingedly fixed to the corner posts 4. See Holub at page 2, lines 128-130, as well as Figure 1. In other words, the hinges are fixed to the corner posts 4, which are asserted to be the claimed cabinet holder, and the doors 19, which are asserted to be the claimed fire plate. However, the hinges, as disclosed by Holub, are not configured for insertion into both a fire plate and a side plate.

The rejection of claims 5-8 are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 5-8 are allowable over the applied references for at least depending upon claim 26, which recites a combination of features including, for example, "a cabinet holder configured to fasten the fire plate to the side plate wherein the cabinet holder includes a plurality of fastening pieces configured for insertion into the fire plate and the side plate." As discussed

above, Vonderhaar and Holub, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention.

The rejection of claim 15 is respectfully traversed. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claim 15 is allowable over the applied references for reciting a combination of features including, for example, "a cabinet holder joining the fire plate to the side plate, the cabinet holder including a plurality of fastening pieces on an underside of the cabinet holder wherein the plurality of first fastening holes receive the plurality of fastening pieces."

Vonderhaar and Holub, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention.

In setting forth the rejection, the Examiner identifies the dimpled sections 136 of Vanderhaar as being the claimed cabinet holder. However, the dimpled sections 136, as disclosed by Vanderhaar, fail to anticipate or render obvious a cabinet holder, as recited in claim 26, at least since the dimpled sections 136 are not on an <u>underside</u> of flange 56 (emphasis added). In contrast, Vanderhaar discloses dimpled sections 136 that are positioned on an uppermost side of flange 56. See Vanderhaar at Figure 5.

Additionally, the dimpled sections 136, as disclosed by Vanderhaar, fail to anticipate or render obvious a cabinet holder, as recited in claim 26, at least since the dimpled sections 136 are not configured for "joining the fire plate to the side plate," as recited in claim 15. At most, Vanderhaar discloses that flange 56 is dimpled 136 for supporting the flange 135, which is provided with a plurality of openings adapted to be aligned with the openings in the dimpled sections 136 for mounting the support member. See Vanderhaar at column 6, lines 51-65. However, Vanderhaar does not provide any disclosure indicating that the dimpled sections 136 are capable of joining support member 134, which is alleged to be claimed fire plate, to the side panel 11, which is alleged to be the claimed side plate. Moreover, a close inspection of Vanderhaar reveals that the dimpled sections 136 are positioned such that they are incapable of joining panel support member 134, which is alleged to be the claimed fire plate, with side panel 11, which is alleged to be the claimed side plate. See Vanderhaar at Figure 5. Accordingly, Vanderhaar fails to disclose, inter alia, a cabinet holder that includes a plurality of fastening pieces configured for insertion into the fire plate and the side plate, as recited in at least claim 26.

Based on an alternative interpretation of Vanderhaar, the Examiner identifies burner box 77 of Vanderhaar as being the claimed fire plate and main section 82 of Vanderhaar as being the

claimed cabinet holder. The alternative rejection is also deficient and improper at least since main section 82, which is alleged to be the claimed cabinet holder, does not include a plurality of fastening pieces on an <u>underside</u> thereof (emphasis added). Although Vanderhaar discloses main sections 82 of side panels 11 as having slots 85 that receive pins or studs 86, Vanderhaar clearly illustrates that these same pins or studs 86 are not on an underside thereof and are not configured for insertion into burner box 77, which was alleged to be the claimed fire plate.

Additionally, Vanderhaar also fails to disclose a fire plate having a first flange with a plurality of fastening holes that are configured to receive a plurality of fastening pieces from an underside of the cabinet holder. Appellants can find no such holes on Vanderhaar's burner box 77, which is alleged to be the claimed fire plate. Although Vanderhaar discloses holes 101 in burner box 77, Vanderhaar discloses that these holes 101 are vent openings through which cooling air can pass inwardly of the burner box 77. See Vanderhaar at column 5, lines 56-59. That is, holes 101, as disclosed by Vanderhaar, are not configured to receive a plurality of fastening pieces.

Moreover, Holub fails to cure the deficiencies of Vanderhaar. The Examiner only relies upon Holub for disclosing "a laundry dyer application in the field of fire prevention," as stated on page 5 of the Office Action. Nevertheless, Appellants submit that Holub also fails to disclose or suggest, inter alia, "a cabinet holder joining the fire plate to the side plate, the cabinet holder including a plurality of fastening pieces on an underside of the cabinet holder wherein the plurality of first fastening holes receive the plurality of fastening pieces."

The rejection of claims 16-18 and 22-25 are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 16-18 and 22-25 are allowable over the applied references for at least depending upon claim 15, which recites a combination of features including, for example, "a cabinet holder joining the fire plate to the side plate, the cabinet holder including a plurality of fastening pieces on an underside of the cabinet holder wherein the plurality of first fastening holes receive the plurality of fastening pieces." As discussed above, Vonderhaar and Holub, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention.

(C) The Examiner improperly rejected claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vonderhaar in view of Holub and Yandell.

The rejection of claims 2-4 are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 2-4 are allowable over the applied references at least for depending upon claim 26, which recites a combination of features including, for example, "a cabinet holder configured to fasten the fire plate to the side plate wherein the cabinet holder includes a plurality of fastening pieces configured for insertion into the fire plate and the side plate." As discussed above, Vonderhaar and Holub, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention.

Furthermore, Yandell fails to cure the deficiencies of Vonderhaar and Holub, particularly "a cabinet holder configured to fasten the fire plate to the side plate wherein the cabinet holder includes a plurality of fastening pieces configured for insertion into the fire plate and the side plate." Yandell does not disclose such features, which is at least evidenced by a lack of any such indication or reliance upon Yandell by the Examiner for such features.

(D) The Examiner improperly rejected claims 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vonderhaar in view of Holub and Yandell.

The rejection of claims 19-20 are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 19-20 are allowable over the applied references for at least depending upon claim 15, which recites a combination of features including, for example, "a cabinet holder joining the fire plate to the side plate, the cabinet holder including a plurality of fastening pieces on an underside of the cabinet holder wherein the plurality of first fastening holes receive the plurality of fastening pieces." As discussed above, Vonderhaar and Holub, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention.

Furthermore, Yandell fails to cure the deficiencies of Vonderhaar and Holub, particularly "a cabinet holder joining the fire plate to the side plate, the cabinet holder including a plurality of fastening pieces on an underside of the cabinet holder wherein the plurality of first fastening holes receive the plurality of fastening pieces." Yandell does not disclose such features, which is at least evidenced by a lack of any such indication or reliance upon Yandell by the Examiner for such features.

(E) The Examiner improperly provisionally rejected claims 2-20 and 22-26 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-6 of copending application No. 10/663,997.

The rejection of claims 2-20 and 22-26 of the present application are distinct from claims 1-6 of copending application No. 10/663,997. More specifically, the analysis employed for a double patenting determination parallels the guidelines a 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection. However, the factual inquiries set forth in Graham v. John Deere Co. are not set forth in the abovementioned provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Moreover, the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection is also deficient at least since copending application No. 10/663,997 does not disclose or suggest, inter alia, a "cabinet holder joining the fire plate to the side plate, the cabinet holder including a plurality of fastening pieces on an underside of the cabinet holder wherein the plurality of first fastening holes receive the plurality of fastening pieces," as recited in claim 15. In addition, copending application No. 10/663,997 fails to disclose or suggest, inter alia, a cabinet holder configured to fasten the fire plate to the side plate wherein the cabinet holder includes a plurality of fastening pieces configured for insertion into the fire plate and the side plate. Accordingly, passing the claims in the present application to issue would not unjustly extend the rights of the claims of the other application.

Claims 15 and 26 are not obvious over copending application No. 10/663,997. Likewise, claims 2-14, which depend from claim 26, and claims 16-20 and 22-25, which depend from claim 15, are also patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

A copy of the claims involved in the present appeal is attached hereto in the Claims Appendix.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 42,766

Dated: September 21, 2006

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Page 11 of 18

CLAIMS APPENDIX

Claims Involved In The Appeal Of Application No. 10/629,775:

- 1. (Cancelled)
- 2. (Previously Presented) The top cover assembly as claimed in claim 26, wherein the top cover is plastic.
- 3. (Previously Presented) The top cover assembly as claimed in claim, wherein the top cover includes a curved top surface.
- 4. (Previously Presented) The top cover assembly as claimed in claim 26, wherein the fire plate includes a top surface having a curvature matching a curvature of the top cover.
- 5. (Previously Presented) The top cover assembly as claimed in claim 26, wherein the cabinet holder and the fire plate include sides mounted in contact with an inside surface of the top cover, said sides serving as a supporting wall which prevents the side surface of the top cover from inward deformation by an external force.
- 6. (Previously Presented) The top cover assembly as claimed in claim 26, wherein the fire plate includes grooves in a center part of a top surface for improving a rigidity of the fire plate.
- 7. (Previously Presented) The top cover assembly as claimed in claim 26, wherein the cabinet holder includes a plurality of fastening pieces on an underside of the cabinet holder for fastening the fire plate to the side plate.

8. (Previously Presented) The top cover assembly as claimed in claim 7, wherein the fire plate includes a first flange at each of opposite edges having a plurality of first fastening holes receiving the fastening pieces; and

the side plate includes a second flange in top part having a plurality of second fastening holes in communication with the first fastening holes.

- 9. (Previously Presented) The top cover assembly as claimed in claim 8, wherein the cabinet holder further includes a plurality of through holes in communication with the first, and second holes; and at least one of said fastening pieces is on an underside of an edge of one side of the through hole.
- 10. (Previously Presented) The top cover assembly as claimed in claim 8, wherein the second flange further includes a plurality of positioning projections projected upward for alignment of a fastening position of the side plate with the fire plate; and

the first flange further includes first inserting holes receiving the positioning projections therein.

- 11. (Original) The top cover assembly as claimed in claim 10, wherein the cabinet holder further includes a plurality of second inserting holes receiving the positioning projections projected through the first inserting holes.
- 12. (Original) The top cover assembly as claimed in claim 10, wherein the positioning projections are formed by lancing.
- 13. (Original) The top cover assembly as claimed in claim 8, wherein the fire plate includes grooves in a center part of a top surface for improving a rigidity of the fire plate.

- 14. (Original) The top cover assembly as claimed in claim 8, wherein the cabinet holder and the fire plate include sides mounted in contact with an inside surface of the top cover, said sides serving as a supporting wall which prevents the side surface of the top cover from inward deformation by an external force.
 - 15. (Previously Presented) A laundry dryer comprising:
 - a side plate and a front plate of a cabinet;
 - a door in a front surface of the front plate;
 - a top cover on top of the side plate and the front plate;
 - a control panel on the top cover;
- a fire plate between the side plate and the top cover and between the front plate and the top cover, the fire plate having a first flange with a plurality of first fastening holes; and
- a cabinet holder joining the fire plate to the side plate, the cabinet holder including a plurality of fastening pieces on an underside of the cabinet holder wherein the plurality of first fastening holes receive the plurality of fastening pieces.
- 16. (Original) The laundry dryer as claimed in claim 15, further comprising a cabinet bracket on each of top corners of the laundry dryer where the front plate and the side plate are joined, for joining with opposite ends of the front plate and the side plate.
- 17. (Original) The laundry dryer as claimed in claim 16, wherein the cabinet bracket includes a hook fastener on top thereof, and the top cover includes a hook for fastening to the hook fastener.

- 18. (Original) The laundry dryer as claimed in claim 15, wherein the top cover is formed of plastic.
- 19. (Original) The laundry dryer as claimed in claim 15, wherein the top cover includes a curved edge.
- 20. (Original) The laundry dryer as claimed in claim 15, wherein the fire plate includes a top surface having a curvature matching a curvature of the top cover.
 - 21. (Cancelled)
- 22. (Previously Presented) The laundry dryer as claimed in claim 15, wherein the cabinet holder includes a plurality of fastening pieces on an underside of the cabinet holder fastening the fire plate to the side plate, wherein the first flange is at an edge of the fire plate and the side plate includes a second flange at a top part having a plurality of second fastening holes in communication with the plurality of first fastening holes.
- 23. (Previously Presented) The laundry dryer as claimed in claim 22, wherein the cabinet holder further includes a plurality of through holes in communication with the first, and second fastening holes;

and the fastening pieces are on an underside of an edge of one side of the through hole.

24. (Previously Presented) The laundry dryer as claimed in claim 22, wherein the second flange further includes a plurality of positioning projections projected upward for aligning the side plate during fastening of the side plate with the fire plate; and

the first flange further includes first inserting holes receiving the positioning projections therein.

- 25. (Original) The laundry dryer as claimed in claim 24, wherein the cabinet holder further includes a plurality of second inserting holes receiving the positioning projections projected through the first inserting holes.
 - 26. (Previously Presented) A laundry dryer top cover assembly comprising:
 - a top cover mounted on a side plate of a cabinet;
- a fire plate disposed between the side plate and the top cover for preventing fire from spreading outside the laundry dryer; and

a cabinet holder configured to fasten the fire plate to the side plate wherein the cabinet holder includes a plurality of fastening pieces configured for insertion into the fire plate and the side plate.

Docket No. 9988.0038.00

Application No. 10/629,775 Appeal Brief

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

Evidence:

None.

Application No. 10/629,775 Appeal Brief

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

Related Proceedings:

None.